NUMB. XXXIV.

The GUARDIAN.

——*Mores multorum vidit*—— Hor.

Monday, April 20. 1713.

IT is a moſt vexatious thing to an old Man, who endeavours to ſquare his Notions by Reaſon, and to talk from Reflection and Experience, to fall in with a Circle of young Ladies at their Afternoon Tea-Table. This happened very lately to be my Fate. The Converſation, for the firſt half hour, was ſo very rambling, that it is hard to ſay what was talked of, or who ſpoke leaſt to the Purpoſe. The various Motions of the Fan, the Toſſings of the Head, intermixt with all the pretty kinds of Laughter, made up the greateſt part of the Diſcourſe. At laſt, this modiſh way of Shining, and being Witty, ſettled into ſomething like Converſation, and the Talk ran upon *Fine Gentlemen*. From the ſeveral Characters that were given, and the Exceptions that were made, as this or that Gentleman happened to be named, I found that a Lady is not difficult to be pleaſed, and that the Town ſwarms with fine Gentlemen. A nimble Pair of Heels, a ſmooth Complexion, a full-bottom Wig, a laced Shirt, an embroidered Suit, a pair of fringed Gloves, a Hat and Feather; any one or more of theſe and the like Accompliſhments ennobles a Man, and raiſes him above the Vulgar, in a Female Imagination. On the contrary, a modeſt ſerious Behaviour, a plain Dreſs, a thick pair of Shoes, a Leathern Belt, a Waſtcoat not lined with Silk, and ſuch like Imperfections, degrade a Man, and are ſo many Blots in his Eſcutcheon. I could not forbear Smiling at one of the prettieſt and livelieſt of this gay Aſſembly, who excepted to the Gentility of Sir *William Hearty*, becauſe he wore a Frize Coat, and breakfaſted upon Toaſt and Ale. I pretended to admire the Fineneſs of her Taſte, and to ſtrike in with her in ridiculing thoſe awkward healthy Gentlemen that ſeem to make Nouriſhment the chief End of Eating; I gave her an Account of an honeſt *Yorkſhire* Gentleman, who (when I was a Traveller) uſed to invite his Acquaintance at *Paris* to break their Faſt with him upon cold Roaſt Beef and Mum. There was, I remember, a little *French* Marquis that was often pleaſed to rally him unmercifully upon Beef and Pudding, of which our Countryman would diſpatch a Pound or two with great Alacrity, while his Antagoniſt was pidling at a Muſhroom, or the Haunch of a Frog. I could perceive the Lady was pleaſed with what I ſaid, and we parted very good Friends, by vertue of a Maxim I always obſerve, Never to contradict or reaſon with a ſprightly Female. I went home, however, full of a great many ſerious Reflections upon what had paſſed; and though, in Complaiſance, I diſguiſed my Sentiments, to keep up the good Humour of my fair Companions, and to avoid being looked upon as a teſty old Fellow, yet out of the Good-will I bear to the Sex, and to prevent for the future their being impoſed upon by *Counterfeits*, I ſhall give them the diſtinguiſhing Marks of *a true Fine Gentleman*.

When a good Artiſt would expreſs any remarkable Character in Sculpture, he endeavours to work up his Figure into all the Perfection his Imaginati-

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(Price Two Pence.)

on can form; and to imitate not ſo much what is, as what may or ought to be. I ſhall follow their Example, in the Idea I am going to trace out of a Fine Gentleman, by aſſembling together ſuch Qualifications as ſeem requiſite to make the Character compleat. In Order to this, I ſhall premiſe in general, that by a Fine Gentleman I mean a Man compleatly qualified as well for the Service and Good, as for the Ornament and Delight, of Society. When I conſider the Frame of Mind peculiar to a Gentleman, I ſuppoſe it graced with all the Dignity and Elevation of Spirit that Human Nature is capable of: To this I would have joined a clear Underſtanding, a Reaſon free from Prejudice, a ſteady Judgment, and an extenſive Knowledge. When I think of the Heart of a Gentleman, I imagine it firm and intrepid, void of all inordinate Paſſions, and full of Tenderneſs, Compaſſion and Benevolence. When I view the Fine Gentleman with regard to his Manners, methinks I ſee him modeſt without Baſhfulneſs, frank and affable without Impertinence, obliging and complaiſant without Servility, chearful and in good Humour without Noiſe. Theſe amiable Qualities are not eaſily obtained; neither are there many Men that have a Genius to excell this Way. A finiſhed Gentleman is perhaps the moſt uncommon of all the great Characters in Life. Beſides the natural Endowments with which this diſtinguiſhed Man is to be born, he muſt run through a long Series of Education. Before he makes his Appearance and ſhines in the World, he muſt be principled in Religion, inſtructed in all the moral Virtues, and lead through the whole Courſe of the polite Arts and Sciences. He ſhould be no Stranger to Courts and to Camps; he muſt Travel to open his Mind, to enlarge his Views, to learn the Policies and Intereſts of foreign States, as well as to faſhion and poliſh himſelf, and to get clear of National Prejudices; of which every Country has its Share. To all theſe more eſſential Improvements, he muſt not forget to add the faſhionable Ornaments of Life, ſuch as are the Languages and the bodily Exerciſes moſt in vogue: Neither would I have him think even Dreſs it ſelf beneath his Notice.

It is no very uncommon Thing in the World to meet with Men of Probity; there are likewiſe a great many Men of Honour to be found: Men of Courage, Men of Senſe, and Men of Letters are frequent. But a true Fine Gentleman is what one ſeldom ſees. He is properly a Compound of the various good Qualities that embelliſh Mankind. As the great Poet animates all the different Parts of Learning by the Force of his Genius, and irradiates all the Compaſs of his Knowledge by the Luſtre and Brightneſs of his Imagination; ſo all the great and ſolid Perfections of Life appear in the finiſhed Gentleman, with a beautiful Gloſs and Varniſh; every thing he ſays or does is accompanied with a Manner, or rather a Charm, that draws the Admiration and Good-will of every Beholder.

ADVERTISEMENT.

For the Benefit of my Female Readers.

N. B. *The Gilt Chariot, the Diamond Ring, the Gold Snuff-Box and Broccade Sword Knot, are no eſſential Parts of a Fine Gentleman; but may be uſed by him, provided he caſts his Eye upon them but once a Day.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

The Original and Ends of Government: The Indiſpenſible Duty of Magiſtrates, and Power of Princes, diſtinguiſhing them from Tyrants. Together with a ſhort View of the ſeveral Forms of Government and different Adminiſtrations in the Old Teſtament. To which are added ſome remarkable Inſtances of God's Severity towards the Rebellious Kings of Iſrael and Judah. As alſo an Account of the laſt Reſort in Matters of Controverſy. And a brief Vindication of the Rights and Liberties of the People. Printed for A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane; J. Harriſon at the Royal Exchange; and A. Dod without Temple-Bar. Price 1 s.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

A Funeral Sermon upon Mr. Noble. By a neighbouring Miniſter. Printed for Sam. Buckley at the Dolphin in Little Britain. Price 3 d.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

England's Intereſt conſidered in the Increaſe of the Trade of this Kingdom, in which is an Account of our Commerce with the ſeveral Nations in Europe; as alſo of the Advantages and Diſadvantages we receive from each Nation, price 6 d. The Tories defeated, or the Dr. almoſt turned Chriſtian. Illuſtrated from ſeveral Paſſages in the Act of Grace he paſſed upon his Enemies at St. Saviours, price 3 d. Sold by J. Baker in Pater-noſter-row.

Imported about 3 Weeks ago, and to be Sold for the Merchant, a choice parcel of new Obrion French Claret, of the very laſt Vintage, bright, deep, ſtrong, and of a moſt delicious Flavour, never touched ſince it came over, but perfectly neat from the Grape, Bottled off from the Lee as ſoon as it became fine of it ſelf, and is certainly the nobleſt Flower for Colour, Taſte and Smell that ever was imported, price 54 s. a dozen, Bottles and all, which is but 4 s. 6 d. a Bottle, for excellence not to be matched for 7 s. nor indeed at any Rate. To be had only at the Golden Key in Haydon-yard in the Minories, where may alſo be had true Carcavalla White Wine, purely neat, ſtrong, fine and of the right grateful Taſte, at 24 s. a dozen, Bottles and all, none leſs than 5 Bottles of either ſort.

Peter Bartlett, removed from Goodman's-fields to the Golden Ball near St. Paul's School in St. Paul's Church-yard; whoſe Steel Spring and Jointed Truſſes are ſo effectual in the Cure of Ruptures; being very eaſie and nicely adapted according to the Anatomical Deſcription of thoſe Parts of the Abdomen liable to ſuch Accidents. Alſo very neat and uſeful Inſtruments for Crooked Children. *** His Mother, at the Golden Ball near the three Crowns within Aldgate, is very ſucceſsful in the Buſineſs of her own Sex.

For the Good of the Publick,

Whereas ſeveral Ladies, Gentlewomen, and others of that Sex, in this Kingdom, have contracted an evil Habit of Body, wherein the vicious Humours, at firſt diſperſed thro' the whole, come at length to be lodged in one part or another, and many times, for Cauſes too long here to be mentioned, are thrown down upon the Womb, occaſioning a dangerous Weakneſs in that Part, which being neglected, at laſt turns cancerous, and often proves fatal; This is to acquaint all ſuch as may have occaſion, that a certain and ſpeedy Relief is to be had from an experienc'd Midwife, living now at the Goldſmith's over-againſt Exeter-Exchange in the Strand, who lately perform'd a wonderful Cure upon a Lady at the Bath, after ſhe was given over by Phyſicians.

LONDON: Printed for *J. Tonſon* in the *Strand*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in. 1713.